

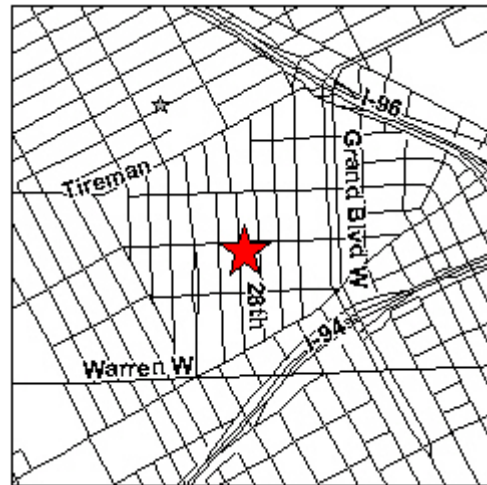
St. Cyprian's Church

6114 28th Street.

Local ✓ 10/17/83
State
State Marker
National



St. Cyprian's Church



Historic overview:

St. Cyprian's is the daughter church of St. Matthew's, Michigan's oldest black Episcopal Church. St. Matthew's was founded in 1846 by Rev. William Monroe and several members of Detroit's Underground Railroad. Established as a mission parish in 1918, St. Cyprian's was founded during a significant migration of blacks from the south to the north. Between 1910-1925 Detroit's black population increased from 5,000 to over 40,000. St. Cyprian's mirrors the growth and emergence of Detroit's black population in its struggle for justice and equality. It is from the churches that many of the city's civil rights leaders have emerged.

Housed in a temporary structure, the church was dedicated in 1920, and 21 persons from St. Matthew's transferred their membership to form the nucleus of the new congregation. During the 1920s a house on 28th Street was purchased for the rectory. By 1936 the congregation was overflowing, and the Diocese Executive Council finally approved construction of a new facility. The new church was dedicated in 1938. In 1940 St. Cyprian's gained church status, and became the first black Episcopal mission in Detroit to become an independent parish.

St. Cyprian's became one of the most politically active churches in Detroit. During the 1940s-50s Cyprian's Rev. Dade along with other Detroit Reverends helped unionize black workers at the Ford Rouge Plant, and challenged many of the discriminatory practices blacks faced in the automobile factories. In 1962 he was the only clergyman elected as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. St. Cyprian's also began to establish and reactive other missions. Today, St. Cyprian's continues to provide spiritual, intellectual and social service to Detroit's community.

